A STUDY ON SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF DALIT IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

Cinema plays a vital role when it comes to building, shaping, reinforcing public opinion and perception. Cinema has a notable role in caste, politics in India. Movies have always been in a stable struggle to eliminate as well as to maintain the boundaries between the leading and the minorities. The outfit is one such element, which acts to characterize the formation of a community's image in people's minds. The properties used in the movies create symbolic representation. The movies selected for this research is Kaala (2018), and Pariyerum Perumal (2018).The analysis applied here is mise-en-scene analysis. For example in the movie Kaala, the scene where Kaala (leader of the community) talking with his wife, after a huge clash with enemies, the background properties show books of K.Daniel's creations (a dalit based short stories and novels) and Raavana Kaviyum (Epic of Raavan). In the movie Pariyerum Perumal, Karuppi, the black hunting dog in the first scene, is merely a symbol of dalit identity. Karuppi exemplifies how those held captive by the manacles of caste are oppressed by the more powerful in society. This research was conducted through content analysis method. The unit of studyis scene by scene analysis.

KEYWORDS: *Symbolic Representation, Dalit Identity, Tamil Cinema*